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Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15
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AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY KUWAIT
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK
USIA WASHDC
DIA WASHDC
USCINCEUR

UNCLAS DAMASCUS 1408

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SY
SUBJECT: SYRIAN MEDIA SUMMARY FOR FEB 26-28

1. STATEMENTS BY CARTER, VANCE, AMD WALDHEIM ON PROSPECTS FOR ME PEACE FEATURED IN MEDIA FEB 26. PRES CARTER'S STATEMENTS THAT 1977 IS PROPITIOUS YEAR FOR MAKING EFFORTS TOWARDS PEACE REPORTED, AS WERE COMPLEMENTARY STATEMENTS BY SECRETARY VANCE AND UNSYG WALDHEIM ON US WILLINGNESS TO PLAY MAJOR ROLE IN ME PEACE NEGOTIATIONS AND LIKELIHOOD OF RECONVENING OF GENEVA IN SECOND HALF OF THIS YEAR RESPECTIVELY. IN RECENTS WEEKS
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SYRIAN MEDIA HAVE NOT HESITATED TO GIVE PROMINENT ATTENTION TO STATEMENTS BY NEW ADMINISTRATION ON ME, EVEN WHEN SOME OF THOSE STATEMENTS WERE NOT COMPLETELY IN HARMONY WITH SYRIAN VIEWS.

2. KHARTOUM TRIPARTITE SUMMIT DOMINATED FEB 27-28 NEWS. SUMMIT GIVEN LARGE BUILD-UP IN MEDIA WHICH FORTHRIGHTLY PRE-

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DICTED THAT SUMMIT WOULD RESULT IN SUDAN'S JOINING SYRO-EGYPTIAN POLITICAL COMMAND AND MEASURES TO CHECK ALLEGED ISRAELI-ETHIOPIAN MOVES TO ENTRANCE TO RED SEA. TISHRIIN HEADLINED NEW SERIES OF KHARTOUM "NO'S: NO ABANDONING OF ONE SINGLE INCH ARAB TERRITORY OCCUPIED IN 1967 AND NO BARGAINING OVER RIGHTS OF PALESTINIANS."

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT ON VISIT WAS LENGTHY AND DIRECT, STRESSING THEMESE THAT SYRIA HAD BEEN INSTRUMENTAL IN BRINGING ABOUT UNITY AMONG CONFRONTATION STATES AS CALLED FOR IN RABAT SUMMIT RESOLUTIONS AND THAT NOW WAS TIME "CONFRONTATION STATES ENTITLED TO DEMAND SUPPORTING STATES UNDERTAKE THEIR FULL COMMITMENTS TOWARD CONFRONTATION STATES BEFORE IT TOO LATE." SUPPORTING STATES CALLED "STRATEGIC REAR-GUARD HELPING EXPAND ARAB AREA OF MOVEMENT AND MARGIN OF MANEUVER." ERITREA AND ALLEGED THREAT ETHIOPIA POSES FOR SUDAN ALSO FRANKLY DEALT WITH IN EDITORIAL, WITH ISRAELI-ETHIOPIAN COOPERATION IN ATTEMPT TO GAIN CONTROL OF RED SEA SPOKEN OF AS EXISTING FACT. COMMENTARY INDICATED THAT EGYPT AND SYRIA WISHED DISPLAY SOLIDARITY WITH SUDAN ON THIS SUBJECT.

4. COMMENTARY IN THAWRA FEB 26 PREDICTED HOLDING OF QUADRIPARTITE SUMMIT IN DAMASCUS IN LATTER HALF OF MARCH WHICH COULD BE EXPANDED BY ONE OR TWO ADDITIONAL PARTICIPANTS. AUTHOR RECALLED THAT RABAT RESOLUTIONS NOT ONLY CALLED UPON CONFRONTATION STATES TO COOPERATE TO CONVENE SUMMITS BUT ALSO INDICATED NEED TO SUPPLY CONFRONTATION STATES WITH ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT.
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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